

Joint Meeting
**LUMPKIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AND
DAHLONEGA CITY COUNCIL
AGENDA**

Dahlonega City Hall
465 Riley Road
Dahlonega, Georgia
June 14, 2006
2:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gooch
Mayor McCullough

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. PRESENTATION – Yahoola Creek Reservoir Project
Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Introduction | Paul Burks |
| 2. Current Contract Status | Denise Whiting-Pack |
| 3. Current Project Status | City of Dahlonega & Lumpkin County |
| 4. Next Steps – Contractually | Denise Whiting-Pack & Tom Steinmetz |
| 5. Next Steps - Project | City of Dahlonega & Lumpkin County |
| 6. Other Business | |

IV. ADJOURN

Chairman Gooch
Mayor McCullough

**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
LUMPKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AND DAHLONEGA CITY COUNCIL**

June 14, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gooch called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. County Commissioners present were Stephen Gooch, John Raber, Deborah Hutcheson, Clarence Stowers and Marvin Martin. County Manager Stan Kelley and County Attorney K. C. Horne were also in attendance representing Lumpkin County. Mayor Pro Tem Michael Clemmons, Council Members Terry Peters, Gerald Lord, Sam Norton, Bill Scott, City Manager Bill Lewis and City Attorney Doug Parks represented the City of Dahlonega. Mayor McCullough was ill and unable to attend the meeting. Paul Burks, Executive Director, Tom Steinmetz, Director of Finance and Denise Whiting-Pack, Attorney for GEFA represented Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No motion was made concerning the agenda.

PRESENTATION – Yahoola Creek Reservoir Project

Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority

Introduction:

Mr. Paul Burks, GEFA made the introductions and provided background on the project to date. Mr. Burks also gave an overview of the items to be covered in today's meeting with the City and the County.

Current Contract Status:

Ms. Denise Whiting-Pack, GEFA pointed out that the contract signed August 2005 required that the City and County would indicate to GEFA which portion of the contract would be paid by each government. She pointed out that the deadline for this was March 2006 so that there would be two separate loan agreements. The City and County each gave an update on the current status of their negotiations and what difficulties they had experienced.

Next Steps – Contractually:

Denise Whiting-Pack & Tom Steinmetz explained GEFA is willing to bifurcate the agreement if desired by the City and County. They explained that the revised documents would go first to the City for signature, then to the County. Thirdly the documents will go to the state. Each entity will then receive a fully executed original contract. As the contracts are currently executed if either the City or the County defaults GEFA can go after both of them. That would not be the case if loan were bifurcated. Mr. Steinmetz pointed out what a good loan this is for the community. This is the only community that has ever had a 40-year term. Mr. Steinmetz said that GEFA would be agreeable with what the City and County work out as to how the separation should be made. Their concern is the overall \$14 million obligation.

GEFA understands that this process takes time but urges the City and the County to go through these documents and come to an agreement. Mr. Steinmetz pointed out that both governments would be liable for the full amount until the separate agreements are executed. Ms. Whiting-Pack pointed out that technically we are in default but they have not declared it so. This agreement required that an intergovernmental agreement be signed by March 2006.

Ms. Whiting-Pack stated that based on The City Attorney's comments concerning the clouded title of the property that is in escrow that she didn't see that this should hold things up. The City and County committed to having the differences resolved by the end of 30 days. Further GEFA will be kept apprized of progress with a report at the end of 16 days from this date.

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Next Steps – Project:

GEFA will issue new documents for signature when City & County determine the split.

Current status of project:

The City and County each provided GEFA with an overview of pending issues concerning the reservoir. The City has passed their Reservoir Management Plan. Chairman Gooch gave an update on the stream buffer issue and how the County is trying to come up with alternatives to buffers. Chairman Gooch and County Manager Kelley both had the impression from Dr. Couch, EPD that she would approve the City permit to withdraw water from the reservoir prior to the alternative studies being completed. Chairman Gooch also said that the County's Reservoir Management Plan ordinance would be on the County's next work session agenda.

A Citizen questioned joint ownership of the 150-foot strip around the lake. This strip will continue to be jointly owned. Another citizen asked when the reservoir would be functional. Chairman Gooch said that it is technically being used now but we are awaiting the permit to withdraw water from the reservoir. The City is currently withdrawing water from Yahoola Creek with their existing permit.

OTHER BUSINESS

Improvements around reservoir:

The City passed out a reservoir improvement plan created by the city engineer. This plan re-gravels the current graveled area but gives more defined parking areas. The boat launch will be paved. The cul-de-sac is for turnaround and is approximately 60 feet across. Though pictured, the picnic shelters are not being considered for current construction. City Manager Bill Lewis pointed out that County and City labor/equipment would need to be used to meet the provided budget.

Citizen Vernon Bowdish said he thinks that the area in question is the wrong area to develop. He envisions a larger recreational area elsewhere. City Manager Bill Lewis said that the EPD views the reservoir as a drinking water reservoir, not recreation. Chairman Gooch said he sees limited recreational use in the future. The City and County agreed to move ahead with the City's plan for a boat ramp area and look at Mr. Bowdish's plan for future consideration. Mr. Bowdish did point out that the current boat ramp is too steep for launching and suggested that this be looked at.

***Motion:** Commissioner Hutcheson made a motion to accept the plan as presented by the City of Dahlonega. Commissioner Stowers seconded the motion and all district commissioners approved. Motion carried.*

ADJOURN

***Motion:** Commissioner Raber made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Stowers. All district commissioners approved and the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.*

7-20-2006
Date

Attest:

Ruth A. Bohac
Ruth A. Bohac
Clerk, Lumpkin County

Stephen W. Gooch
Stephen W. Gooch, Chairman
Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners